

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LANE EVANS, MEMBER OF CON-
GRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague and treasured friend, LANE EVANS. As the 109th Congress comes to an end so, too, does the remarkable 24-year tenure in the House of Representatives of one of the bravest and most decent members to have served in this body.

I had the privilege of working in LANE EVANS' first campaign in 1982. At the time LANE declared his candidacy, he was considered a sacrificial lamb running against a well-entrenched Republican incumbent. His was a pipe dream—except to the many labor union workers, consumer and civil rights activists, and ordinary residents of this western Illinois district who saw something special in this young, legal assistance attorney.

When the incumbent lost his primary election to a State Representative from the far right wing of the party, LANE EVANS' campaign gained momentum and this young Democrat became the Congressman, the first Democrat to do so since the Civil War.

In the first campaign, LANE spent lots of time with his young volunteers. After all, he wasn't much older than they. He sported a Beatle-like bowl hair cut that he maintained until rather recently, resisting all good-natured recommendations for a style update. He was modest, unassuming, friendly, and also inspiring. He showed a humble respect for each and every voter, addressing them in the soft-spoken, sincere manner that he never lost. The quiet strength that came from being a United States Marine during the Vietnam era always shone through.

From the first day and throughout his career in the House, LANE EVANS remained true to his core progressive beliefs. The working and retired men and women of his district and the veterans throughout the nation could always count on LANE EVANS being there for them—no excuses, no exceptions. Environmentalists named him an "Environmental Hero."

There were those who encouraged LANE to trim his positions in order to ensure his reelection. In the end, his consistency proved to be a great asset, appreciated by his constituents who always knew exactly where he stood and who trusted that LANE would not bend with the changes in the polls.

As the Ranking Democrat of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, LANE EVANS is recognized as the leading advocate of veterans in Congress, responsible for legislation to compensate veterans and their families for the effects of Agent Orange, help Persian Gulf and women veterans, and those now returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The veterans' service organizations have honored Lane with their highest awards.

LANE EVANS has always been a leader in the fight for universal health care. Parkinson's disease has forced him to end his productive service in the House. Even now, however, he acknowledges how fortunate he is to be able to afford the best care, while so many Americans are not. He has become an advocate for

expanding funding for research into the cure for Parkinson's and many other diseases that might benefit from government-funded embryonic stem cell research. As in all things at all times, LANE EVANS is handling this newest challenge with courage and dignity.

On a personal note, LANE EVANS has been a close and dear friend to me and my husband, Bob Creamer, since that very first campaign in 1982. That friendship, through thick and thin, has been and will always be so precious to us. We are grateful to LANE for being such an important part of our lives. We love him very much.

LANE EVANS will be sorely missed on a day-to-day basis in this House of Representatives, but his legacy will ever be reflected in the improved lives of the veterans of the United States and all the working families who will continue to benefit from his outstanding service.

TRIBUTE TO THE MENOMINEE
MAROONS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Menominee Maroons, my hometown high school football team that has demonstrated tenacity, courage and skill. Two weeks ago, the Maroons brought the Division 5 state football championship home to Menominee. The team qualified for the state championship after going undefeated in the regular season with a record of 9–0. Equally impressive, in five playoff games, the Menominee Maroons allowed only one touchdown, outscoring their opponents 201 to 6! The Maroons enjoy the distinction of being just the third team to shut out four playoff opponents. Also notable: this year's Menominee Maroons broke the school's previous single-season scoring record of 539 points in a season.

Head Coach Ken Hofer deserves much of the credit for shepherding his team to such success. Coach Hofer has the tenth winningest record in the state of Michigan: 266–122–2. This is the second championship that his teams have brought back to Menominee, having also won the Class BB title in 1998.

In some ways, Coach Hofer and his style of football harken back to an earlier era. Coach Hofer has been at the helm of the Menominee team for 38 years and during that time he has run the unique, "single-wing" offense that is reminiscent of 1940s football. Under this offense, no one player on Menominee's offensive backfield is a "traditional quarterback" as each of the four "backs" may run or pass the ball. This unique formation has successfully confused opponents around the state and allowed Menominee to achieve its solid winning record. Under the single-wing offense, the center makes a direct snap on each play to a player in the backfield. Unlike under the more commonly seen shotgun formation, the center snaps the football to a player who may not be directly behind him. Despite this irregular technique, Menominee saw hardly any turnovers throughout the season, which can be attributed to the team's unrelenting practice. Ultimately, the single-wing formation relies more heavily on teamwork than other formations.

Menominee's single wing offense is taught throughout the Menominee area public school system, starting in 9th grade by Coaches Jeff Bayerl, Mark Bayerl and Jim Anderla. Maroons Junior Varsity is coached by Greg Langlois and Dave Mathieu. These freshman and junior varsity coaches are also part of the "scouting team," which traveled over 5,000 miles this past season to see and learn opponents' strengths and weaknesses in preparation for each Maroon victory.

I would be remiss if I did not discuss the defense of the Maroons and their shutout performance through the playoffs and their efforts to hold Madison Heights, their state final opponents, to six points. Equally important, the Maroons held their opponents to just 38 points during the entire regular season. In the 9 games of the regular season, the Menominee Maroons outscored their opponents 332–38, truly an astonishing feat. Menominee's performance in the championship game built upon this strong showing. The Maroons outgained Madison Heights 442 yards to 232, despite Madison controlling the clock by almost 10 more minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting the 2006 Menominee Maroons football team of Brian Boye, Tom Janson, Ethan Shaver, Nathan Shaver, David Oczus, Matt LaCanne, Dustin Kovar, Austin Fernstrum, Jacob McMahon, Bryan Colvin, Matt Eisenzoph, Robert Forgette, Mike Hansen, Derek Rye, Blake Chouinard, Scott Demars, Aaron Thomsen, Ryan Paliewicz, Anthony Polazzo, Josh Johnson, Tom Carriveau, Zac Robertson, Sam Piche, Ian Rider, Brian Smith, Tyler Blom, Donald Jones, Steve Busick, Josh Blavat, Andrew Whipp, Nathan Linsmeier, Justin Ketchum, Brian Busick, Joe Klitze, Kert Roubal, Trevor Powell, Jacob Pedersen and Cody Woods. I would also ask that you join me in honoring the Assistant Coaches "Satch" Englund, Joe Noha and Jamie Schomer who helped drive this team to victory as well as Managers Jared Thiesen and Bobby Olsen. Athletic Trainers Derek Butler and Dr. Michael Karkkainen and Athletic Director Dale Van Duinen should also be recognized for their contributions to the Maroons' success.

Of course, Head Coach Ken Hofer has earned the thanks, respect and admiration of all of Menominee, not only for this season, but for the 38 that preceded it. Coach Hofer has done great work in bringing out the best in his players. Coach Hofer said of this year's Menominee Maroons, "These young men came to practice every day, and I don't mean just show up. They came to practice hard. And in every game they went all out."

The 2006 Menominee Maroons football team members are also champions off the field. Menominee football is more than just passing, punting, running, kicking and tackling; it is about developing the "inner athlete". Coach Hofer and his entire staff know that the lessons of life can be learned on the gridiron. Coach Hofer often talked about the team's "focus". This team's dedication, commitment and focus are why so many Maroon fans followed, supported and believed in their team. The 2006 state champion Menominee Maroons have clearly learned the lessons of life embodied in what another well respected Menominee County coach, the late Dale Fountain, often stated: